



**United States Department of Justice
United States Attorney's Office
District of Minnesota**

Rachel K. Paulose, United States Attorney

David Anderson, Public Affairs Specialist
(612) 664-5684; cell: (612) 730-2251

News Release

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Bloomington couple indicted for bank fraud

MINNEAPOLIS— A Bloomington couple was indicted Oct. 16 by a federal grand jury with one count of conspiracy to commit bank fraud.

Mark Julian Lee, 48, and Alane Stephanie Prescott, 47, were each charged with one count on conspiracy in connection with a scheme to obtain money from financial institutions by means of false pretenses.

According to the indictment, the scheme occurred between Aug. 22, 2005 and Sept. 30, 2006. The defendants took checks that were stolen from victims' outgoing mail, then altered, endorsed and cashed them at various financial institutions throughout the Twin Cities. During the alleged time frame, the couple cashed or attempted to cash more than \$20,000 in fraudulent checks.

If convicted, each defendant faces a potential maximum penalty of 30 years in federal prison. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge. This case is the result of an investigation by the United States Postal Inspection Service, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney William J. Otteson.

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An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by the defendant. The defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.